



(Photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith 4-1 Inf. Public Affairs)

## Soccer season

Col. Ricky Gibbs, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, gives an Iraqi girl a soccer ball in the Rashid District of southern Baghdad May 3 as part of Operation Dragon Fire, which has detained 21 individuals suspected of anti-coalition activities and confiscated more than 15 weapons caches in a 48-hour period.

## Dragon Soldiers vie for Audie Murphy Club invitation

By Pfc. Nathaniel Smith  
4-1 Inf. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Audie Leon Murphy was the United States' most decorated service member during World War II, received every medal for valor the Army awards, in addition to one Belgian and one French medal. Today, his memory is carried on through

the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, which requires special induction by a board of senior noncommissioned officers.

The Audie Murphy Board was held by the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's brigade and battalion sergeants major at Forward Operating Base Falcon April 29.

Command Sgt. Maj.

James Foreman, sergeant major of the 4th IBCT's Special Troops Battalion, said the Audie Murphy Board is unique from other boards due to the esteem the accomplishment carries.

"Regular promotion boards are more personal, there's more money and there's more rank," Foreman said. "For this board, there's

no money, no rank. It's about prestige."

Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Fields, the sergeant major of 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., said being invited to the Sergeant Audie Leon Murphy Club is a huge compliment to a noncommis-

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# Iraqi, MND-B troops detain 3 suspects, find 10 caches

By Major Kirk Luedeke,  
4-1 Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces, along with Soldiers from the 3rd "Arrowhead" Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, continued clearing operations in the Rashid District of southwestern Baghdad May 3, detaining three suspected terrorists and confiscating 10 weapons caches.

Working in conjunction with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, Stryker troops from the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment "Tomahawks" and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment "Patriots" continued to methodically clear areas in the western portion of the Rashid district, detaining three individuals suspected of involvement with an extrajudicial killing cell, while also seizing weapons and ammunition from multiple caches.



(U.S. Army photo)

**An Iraqi policeman with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, pulls security in the Rashid District of southern Baghdad as part of Operation Dragon Fire, which has detained 21 individuals suspected of anti-coalition activities and confiscated more than 15 weapons in a 48-hour period.**

Numerous AK-47s, SKS carbine rifles, RPK machine-guns, RPG launchers as well

as 60, 81 and 82mm mortar rounds were discovered during the second day of operations, in addition to the confiscation of two sniper rifles, blasting caps and body




armor.

"The weapons and ammunition are never going to be used against innocent Iraqi citizens, Iraqi security forces and U.S. Soldiers again," said Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, whose unit is responsible for the operational area within the Rashid District.

"It is a credit to the professionalism and experience of the Arrowhead Brigade's Soldiers and their leadership that they have played such a prominent role in the operation's early success," he said.

The operation included about 400 Iraqi national policemen and more than 1,000 U.S. Army Soldiers working together to keep pressure on those conducting activities against the government and coalition in Iraq.



| Iraq<br>3-Day<br>Weather<br>Report |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
|                                    | Today  | Tomorrow  | Sunday  |
| High: 97<br>Low: 70                | High: 99<br>Low: 71  | High: 98<br>Low: 73   |   |

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# Soldiers compete at Audie Murphy board

## Dragon

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sioned officer.

"The Sergeant Audie Leon Murphy Board is unique that it separates an average NCO from a superb NCO," Fields said. "A superb NCO goes beyond his regular duties and does them without being asked."

"He is truly the 'Backbone of the Army'."

The board mirrored the fact that Murphy, who was too short and young to join most of the armed services except the Army, had to work diligently to overcome his small stature to become the best.

Sgt. Kevin Dick, a satellite operation and maintenance team leader with Company C, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., was one of four out of 17 nominees that proved to be a superb NCO. The Henderson, Nev., said he placed a lot of stress on himself to do well.

"It was without a doubt the most nerve-racking experience I've been in," Dick said. "I put a lot of pressure on myself for it."

Dick said that while he was taken aback when he found out he had gained admittance to the SAMC, the payoff made it worth the time he invested in it.

"It kind of validates all the studying and all the things that I did to prepare because a lot of effort went into it," he said. "It was hard not to smile."

"I studied so hard for it and I wanted the people who



(Photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith 4-1 Inf. Public Affairs)

**Sgt. Wayne Worrell, an infantryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga., fields questions from a board of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's senior noncommissioned officers at the Sergeant Audie Murphy Board April 28 at Forward Operating Base Falcon. Soldiers who pass the board are inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, a prestigious organization named for the United States' most decorated service member of World War II.**

supported me to know that I did well, I made it, and their support was justified."

Though it wasn't like Murphy standing aboard a burning tank destroyer and fighting off swarms of German troops enroute to being awarded the Medal of Honor, the board made the Soldiers think outside the box.

Sgt. Maj. Richard Cunningham, the operations sergeant major and acting command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division attached to the 4th IBCT, said even the way

Soldiers are judged in front of the SAMB is different.

"The Soldier is constantly on display," Cunningham said. "He's selling himself the entire time."

Cunningham said things he looks for while judging an aspiring member of the SAMC are the way he carries himself, his tone and enthusiasm while answering questions and the appearance of his uniform.

The 2-12 Inf. sergeant major said such things reflect on the amount of pride the individual takes in himself and in his unit.

Even the questions are

different from regular boards, Cunningham said.

The 2-12 Inf. sergeant major said the questions are more situational and require more thinking than simple memorization and regurgitation of facts.

"It makes you think," he said.

In addition to Dick, Staff Sgt. Douglas Middleton, Staff Sgt. Andrew Schmith, and Staff Sgt. Ryan Whitebull of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division passed the SAMB.



# Sisters: two souls with the same sized soles

Relationships are complicated.

It doesn't matter if you are married for 20 years, your relationship will never get simpler. Most guys will never understand why women despise the fact that we have to ask you to take out the trash or empty the dishwasher.

However, that is not the relationship that I want to talk about. I want to talk about sisters.

With three sisters of my own, I remember getting stuffed into the closet a time or two and getting shooed out of the kitchen, even when I said I tried to bribe them with doing the dishes. Being at least eight years younger than them, I was a pest. They had to censor what they said when I was around, because I was a little parrot.

What fun is that?

Those times were simple, though. I bugged them, and they kicked me out. Now that we are older, it isn't so simple. We compare the little things. How big is your house? How clean is it? How well behaved are the kids? Who spends more time with the parents? Who is skinnier? What color are your toes? It goes on and on.

Siblings are naturally competitive. We just are.

That's brings us to our Golden

## Random Review

By Sgt.  
Nicole  
Kojetin



Globe-nominated film, "In Her Shoes." You guessed it: it is about rivalry of sisters.

Maggie (Cameron Diaz), a free-spirited blonde who does not really have any modesty or restraint, loves to party but isn't bright enough to keep a job or a place to live. It seems that her only asset is being able to powerfully attract the opposite sex.

Her sister, Rose (Toni Collette), is her polar opposite. She is a Princeton-educated attorney, working at a top law firm in the city. She is mature, modest and doesn't flaunt her body to get what she wants.

The only thing that Rose and Maggie have in common is that they wear size 8 1/2 shoes, which incidentally, is the size I share with two of my sisters. Though, I think they may be shrinking due to the constant wear of combat boots.

Anyway, Maggie's out-of-control lifestyle ticks Rose off, but out of love she lets her move in, temporarily, under the condition

that Maggie gets a job as soon as possible.

Well, "as soon as possible" was taking too long, and Rose decided to boot her out of her apartment only to come back to see Maggie having intimate relations with Rose's boyfriend. (You never go after a sister's beau. I was way younger than my siblings and even I know that.)

Anyway, a fight ensues and Maggie takes off discovering a long-lost grandma (Shirley MacLaine).

The underlying theme of the movie is that love concurs all. Just like with my sisters, we may fight, torment or scold but it is all about the love. We want what is best for each other, and will do anything to make that happen even when we are spread out across the globe.

Sometimes, love takes on the form of a gallon of paint, a letter, or brightly colored socks, but it is obviously there.

If you have a sister or like pretty shoes, you will enjoy this film. If you don't and you are male, you will enjoy watching Cameron Diaz traipse around in her underwear.

I promise to veer away from chick-flick mode next time.

(4 out of 5 stars!)

